

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Under “ABSTRACT,” please make the following amendment:

A method for grouping computer subscribers by common preferences to establish non-intimate relationships. The method of the present invention provides a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored non-intimate profile information from fellow subscribers. The user registers and stores non-intimate profile information into a database. The present invention groups the user with at least two of the fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarities between the subscriber's profile information and the fellow ~~subscriber's~~ subscribers' profile information. The present invention utilizes an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between the subscriber's profile information and the fellow ~~subscriber's~~ subscribers' profile information, wherein preferences are assigned integer values concatenated to form a lookup key and used to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two preferences. The similarity values between all profile preferences are added to create a final similarity total for the subscribers. Multi-way matching is also employed to ensure that similarity values for each subscriber in the group and all other subscribers in said group exceeds a threshold value. The list of subscribers in the group as well as similarities between the subscribers in the group are displayed for viewing and for editing by the subscriber.

Under “*Background of the Invention*,” paragraph 6, please make the following amendment:

Additional shortfalls of the prior art as it relates to matching people into groups, fall into two areas including: (1) lack of group-specific parameters and functionality to establish a group; and (2) lack of functionality normally associated with establishing and maintaining a group once established. With respect to the first area, as current art is focused on making one-to-one matches, current art does not include provisions for allowing users to specify a preferred group size. The prior art also does not provide for users to specify preferred group meeting times which are often critical to matching people into groups of larger size. With respect to the second area, the prior art does not provide for an automated means to find new mutually compatible members for an established group[[s]] from a much larger pool of candidates contained within a profiles database. Moreover, the prior art does not include functionality that tends to be strongly associated with managing group activities such as providing capabilities to schedule meetings and maintain an on-line posting of group events.

Under “*Brief Description of the Drawings*,” paragraph 1, please make the following amendment:

In the drawings, ~~like reference~~ like-referenced numerals refer to similar elements throughout the various views.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 2, please make the following amendment:

As illustrated in FIGS. 1-13, the present invention provides a method for grouping computer subscribers by common preferences to establish non-intimate relationships. The method of the

present invention is accessed by a web server (not shown) or a series of web servers (not shown) which are networked in a secured fashion to the internet (not shown). Other alternative configurations to the internet may also be utilized to access the method of the present invention. Those skilled in the art would recognize that other configurations such as a network, LAN, and interactive voice response systems[[,]] may be utilized as an alternative to the internet.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 4, please make the following amendment:

To register with the website 12, the home page 14 queries the user for a log-on identification 20 and a password 22, as seen in decision block 42 of Fig. 1. The log-on identification 20 and password 22 allows for private access by the user to the user’s personal profile. If the user has previously registered on the website 12, the user enters his log-on identification 20 and password 22, as seen in block 44 of Fig. 1, by typing in the appropriate log-on identification 20 and password 22 in the spaces provided on the home page 14 and clicking on the word “HERE” 45 for completing the sign on. The user is then directed to select one of the headings 18, as seen in block 48 of Fig. 1, prompting the user to enter the log-on identification 20 and password 22, as seen in Fig. 4. Alternatively, if the user previously registered with the website and attempts to directly access another web page before signing on, screen 40 will be displayed thereby prompting the user to enter the log-on identification 20 and password 22, as seen in Fig. 4. The initially requested screen will only be displayed after the user enters the log-on identification 20 and password 22 and then selects the submit button 51. If the user has not previously registered on the website 12, then the user must create a log-on identification 20 and password 22, as seen in block 46 of Fig. 1. The user clicks on

the appropriate word “HERE” 49 on the home page 14, as seen in Fig. 3, and the user is directed to a screen for creating a log-on identification 20 and password 22, as seen in Fig. 5. The user types in a log-on identification 20 and a password 22 while confirming the password 22 by typing the password 22 in twice. The user clicks on “submit” 51 and is then directed to create a personal profile, as seen in block 50 of Fig. 1.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 8, please make the following amendment:

~~In~~ On a separate computer screen, as seen in Fig. 6E, the user is given the option of having matched control 69 wherein the user may decide whether the computer or fellow subscribers will match or group the user with fellow subscribers, as seen in block 64 of Fig. 6. The user indicates whether the user wishes only the computer to group the user with fellow subscribers or whether the user is willing to allow other fellow subscribers to place the user into groups. The user may also request that the user’s profile no longer be provided to any other subscribers besides the subscribers in the current group in which the user has been grouped. The user may also decide to remove their profile from all groups including those in which the user has been selected. Once the data for the personal profile, as seen in Figs. 6A-6E, has been collected, the user may create or update their profile, as seen in block 66 of Fig. 6, by clicking on “create/update my profile” 71, as seen in Fig. 6E.

Once the user’s personal profile has been created or updated, the user is directed back to the home page 14, where the user has the option of selecting any of the headings 18, as seen in block 68 of Fig. 1.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 9, please make the following amendment:

To group the user with fellow subscribers, the user selects the “create groups” heading 28 on the home page 14 of the website 12. The user is then directed to a computer screen for create groups 28, as seen in Fig. 7A. The user enters a group name, as seen in block 70 of Fig. 7, in order to identify the selected group. As seen in Fig. 7A, a box 73 is provided on the create groups computer screen 28 for entering the group name. The user is then requested to enter a certain match criteria, as seen in block 72 of Fig. 7, by entering characteristics 75 in which the user seeks from fellow subscribers, as seen in Fig. 7A. The user is also prompted to enter the number of people it wishes to have in the group 77, as seen in block 74 in ~~Fig. 7~~ Fig. 7 and as seen in Fig. 7A. Lastly, the user is prompted to enter geographic preferences 79 of group members, as seen in block 76 of Fig. 7 and 79 of Fig. 7A. The create groups computer screen 28 prompts the user to enter the number of miles within a particular zip code in which the user would like fellow subscribers to be selected therefrom, as seen in Fig. 7A. After the create groups information has been entered, the groups may be created, as seen in block 78 of Fig. 7. The user clicks on “create group” 81 at the bottom of the create groups computer screen 28, as seen in Fig. 7A, to group the user with fellow subscribers. In so doing, the computer references the user’s non-intimate, personal profile as well as the selections made under the “create groups” heading 28.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 10, please make the following amendment:

Once a group is created, the group is viewed on a separate computer screen having the

heading “view groups” 30, as seen in Fig. 8. The view groups computer screen lists 30 the group name 93 that is being viewed. The user may select any previously formed group of which they are a member. The fellow subscribers selected for the group are listed by name, address and e-mail address 87. The user may scroll through the list of grouped subscribers. The view group screen 30 also ~~list~~ lists common characteristics 89 among the subscribers, for example, the low and high age of the selected subscribers, the top common interests between the subscribers, and the best overall get-together times between the selected subscribers in the group are listed.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 11, please make the following amendment:

To modify the group, the user may select the heading “modify groups” 32, as seen in Fig. 1. The user selects the “modify groups” heading 32 on any of the computer screens, and the user is directed to a computer screen having the “modify groups” heading 32, as seen in Fig. 9. A box having a drop down menu feature is provided for entering the group name 95. If the user wishes to revise the group name, the user enters the new name in a prompted location 97 on the computer screen. If the user does not wish to change the group name, then the user simply does not enter a revised name in the prompted location. A list of the subscribers selected to the group named is displayed in a current group listing 99 of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses. If the user wishes to delete any of the subscribers from the group, the user is prompted to enter the e-mail addresses of those subscribers in which the user wishes to delete from the group. The computer screen of the heading modify groups 32 provides boxes 101 for the user to enter the e-mail addresses of those subscribers the user wishes to delete from the group. If the user wishes to add subscribers to the

group, then the user may enter the e-mail addresses of the requested subscribers in the prompted areas 103. [[9A.]] Once the added and deleted subscribers have been listed, the user may modify the group by clicking on “modify group” 105.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 12, please make the following amendment:

The user may also decide to have the computer add new members to the group. To have the computer find new members, the user simply clicks on “click here” 107, as seen in Fig. 9. The user is directed to a computer screen entitled “Find New People for Groups”, as seen in Fig. 10. The user may have the computer utilize the standard matching criteria to select the new subscriber for the group, as shown by option No. 1, or the user may select the matching criteria that the user wishes the computer to use, as shown by option No. 2. If the user wishes to use the standard criteria, then the user selects option ~~no. 1~~ No. 1 and click son “Find and Add New People to Group” 109. If the user wishes to identify the matching criteria itself, then the user selects option No. 2 and enters the matching criteria interests 111 in the prompted locations. The user is prompted to list the number of people to add to the group 113, as well as enter a geographic preference 115. The user enters the number of miles within a zip code as a geographic preference. After the necessary information is entered, the user clicks on “Find and Add New People to Group” 109, and the computer generates the newly added people to the group. These new people are viewed in the “view groups” screen 30, as shown in Fig. 8A.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 13, please make the following

amendment:

To schedule meetings for the selected groups, the user selects the “schedule groups” heading 34. The user is directed to a computer screen having the schedule groups heading 34, shown in Fig. 11A. As seen in block 108 of Fig. 11, the user identifies the group name that is to be scheduled by entering the group name in the indicated box 117, as seen in Fig. 11A. A preferred activity date, as seen in block 110 of Fig. 11, and a preferred activity time, as seen in block 112 of Fig. 11, are selected by the user. Drop down calendars and times 119 allow the user to easily reference dates and times as seen in Fig. 11A. A second choice activity date and time may also be provided, as seen in blocks 114 and 116 of Fig. 11. Similar drop down calendars and times 121 are also provided for the second choice activity dates and times, as ~~see~~ seen in Fig. 11A. The schedule groups heading 34 also has a second computer screen, as seen in Fig. 11B, entitled “activity message” 118. The activity message screen 118 allows the user to enter ~~[[a]]~~ an activity title 123 for the group as well as an activity message 125 for the group to correspond with the scheduled dates and time. The user clicks on “submit message” 120, as seen in Fig. 11B, and the scheduled dates and times 119, 121 as well as the activity message 123, 125 are automatically forwarded to the e-mail addresses of each of the subscribers of the group, as seen in block 122 of Fig. 11.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 18, please make the following amendment:

Table lookups are performed by concatenating the answer values of two subscribers being compared to form a key and then using the resulting key used to access the similarity value contained within the table corresponding to the question wherein the higher the ~~value~~ the value, the higher the

similarity. In some other cases, table lookups are performed by concatenating the answer value of one subscriber with the corresponding characteristic of another subscriber. This would, for example, be the case whereby a subscriber specifies to only be matched with other married men.

Under “*Description of the Preferred Embodiment*,” paragraph 22, please make the following amendment:

Although the method [[12]] disclosed is driven by the user accessing the website [[15]] 12 and providing directives through the website [[15]] 12, the present invention also provides an automated computer batch run system that automatically groups subscribers, as seen in Fig. 2. A computer scheduler starts a batch run of the create groups 28 heading on a periodic basis, as seen in block 128. The computer uses the matching algorithm to establish groups, as seen in block 140, and assign a group name or unique identifier to the group, as seen in block 142. The results of the groupings are stored in a database, as seen in block 144, and the group members are then notified of the groupings, as seen in block 146. By providing batch runs on the computer, the present invention can provide a more comprehensive and accurate analysis of the personal profiles of the subscribers.